United Nations A/C.1/60/PV.15

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

First Committee
15th meeting
Wednesday, 19 October 2005, 10 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Choi ..... (Republic of Korea)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda items 85 to 105 (*continued*)

Thematic discussion on item subjects and the introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman: This morning, as part of the second stage of its work, the Committee will have an interactive discussion with the President of the Conference on Disarmament and the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission, whom I have invited to be our guest speakers for today. We will then move on to the follow-up of draft resolutions and draft decisions adopted by the Committee at its previous sessions, including the presentation of reports.

After our informal discussions I will resume the formal meeting in order to invite delegations to continue to introduce draft resolutions and draft decisions.

The meeting was suspended at 10.10 a.m. and resumed at 12 noon.

Mr. Rivasseau (France) (*spoke in French*): We believe that the international community should be able to benefit from the fruits of independent and thorough research on security issues and the prospect of disarmament and non-proliferation.

With that firm conviction, France has introduced the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/60/L.2 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). I now have the honour of officially introducing that draft resolution before the Committee.

The work of UNIDIR constitutes a particularly relevant contribution to the consideration and the analysis of international security issues in the current situation. As a result of its topical relevance and excellent quality, the Institute's work is of great importance and benefit to all.

We believe that it is essential that the Institute be able to pursue independent research on disarmament and security issues, as well as specialized studies requiring a high degree of expertise. But that depends on UNIDIR receiving sufficient resources to successfully carry out that work.

That is why the draft resolution introduced on behalf of France and some 50 other sponsors, whom I particularly thank, calls on Member States, which provide UNIDIR's budget, to continue to make voluntary contributions to enable the Institute to pursue its mission. More generally, the draft resolution gives us an opportunity to express our satisfaction to UNIDIR and to reaffirm our confidence in it and assure it of our support.

Traditionally, we adopt the draft resolution on UNIDIR on a consensus basis. We hope that this continues to be the case. Thus, we invite all Member States to support and sponsor the draft resolution.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

05-55942 (E)

Today, it is important to recall that UNIDIR continues to be part of the international community's efforts in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, which enjoy the support of all Member States.

Mr. De Alba (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the delegations of Andorra, Australia, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Zambia and our own delegation, I would like to introduce the revised draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.26/Rev.1, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which aims to promote the early entry into force of that international instrument.

This year, the sponsors would like to stress the agreements and the action measures that were adopted during the fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was held recently here at Headquarters.

Compared to last year's resolution, the current draft resolution contains changes and updates. The only new paragraph is the last preambular paragraph, where we welcome the final declaration of the fourth Conference.

We should point out that the draft resolution is an important call by the international community for the early entry into force of the CTBT, a key instrument in the disarmament agenda, as well as for non-nuclear proliferation. The draft resolution reaffirms the importance of the CTBT in the global system of nuclear non-proliferation.

Everyone knows that the CTBT is designed to become a very valuable instrument to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms, and is key to the future viability of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has a fundamental role to play in preventing nuclear proliferation, both vertical and horizontal, and the production of new arms. The draft resolution also reaffirms the role of the CTBT as a reliable global monitoring mechanism aimed at building confidence in the international community.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to point out that the draft resolution reflects positions of principle on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation to the effect that the countries that have taken part in the negotiations from the beginning of the CTBT will not rest until they see the Treaty's entry into force.

Mr. Acharya (Nepal): My delegation has the honour to introduce a draft resolution under agenda item 98 (d), entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific", contained in document A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1.

The sponsors of the draft resolution are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Pakistan, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, along with the host country Nepal. My delegation expresses its sincere gratitude to all the sponsors and those delegations that were sponsors of the text.

At a time when disarmament and non-proliferation regimes are in disarray, we firmly believe that regional centres for peace and disarmament can make a significant contribution towards promoting a global disarmament campaign, by constructive dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building at regional and subregional levels. My delegation sincerely believes that continued dialogue and interaction — not only at the governmental level, but also at the civil society level — is important for creating a conducive environment with greater understanding for global disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Regional centres for peace and disarmament can be effective instruments for realizing that noble objective, by fostering dialogue, advocacy and cooperation.

As the host to the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, Nepal is committed to the enhanced and constructive role of the Centre in our region by consolidating the Kathmandu Process, so as to contribute to peace and disarmament in the region. It is our firm conviction that the relocation of the Centre from United Nations Headquarters — where it is currently carrying out its activities — to the place closely identified to its mission, will give added impetus and momentum to its activities.

With that in mind, Nepal has taken the initiative since 1998 to relocate the Centre to Kathmandu from New York, by introducing a resolution with a view to

expediting the relocation process. His Majesty's Government of Nepal has demonstrated flexibility and has shown its eagerness to sign the host country agreement by accommodating the concerns of the Secretariat. In doing so, my Government has already expressed its readiness to bear the operating costs of the Centre and to accord the appropriate privileges and immunities to the personnel of the Centre, in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 1946.

My delegation strongly reiterates Nepal's desire to relocate the Centre to Kathmandu and to make it operational during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. We call upon the Secretariat to conclude the Agreement as soon as possible.

By introducing the draft resolution, we have made some factual and technical updates, while most paragraphs of the draft resolution remain unchanged from previous years.

My delegation urges the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus, as in previous years, including the amendments in preambular paragraph 7 submitted yesterday.

The Chairman: Before adjourning, I wish to inform members that a paper grouping the draft resolutions in the agreed "semi-clusters" contained in document A/C.1/60/CRP.3, was circulated this morning to all delegations.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.